

CONCENTRATION OF SOLIDS IN A SUSPENSION USING HOLLOW FIBRE MEMBRANES

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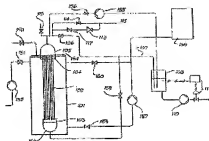
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Abstract not available for JP 3302992 (B2)

Abstract of corresponding document: WO 9302779 (A 1)

A microporous filter assembly is disclosed which, in some modes of operation, has feed pressure fed to the external walls of the microporous fibres (13) comprising the filter. In other forms feed is caused to move across the walls of the fibres (13) by the application of a lowered pressure to the lumens of the fibres (13). Various forms of backwashing of the fibres (13) are disclosed, with none of the modes requiring a pressurisation step of the environment within and around the fibres (13) prior to commencement of backwash. In particular forms of backwash, initial steps of the backwash include terminating supply of feed to the exterior surface of the fibres (13) and substantially removing remaining filtrate from the lumens of the fibres (13). In some embodiments the filter comprises a filter cartridge (10) including a bundle of fibres (13) housed within a closed, pressurisable shell (12). In other embodiments the filter comprises one or more bundles of fibres (102) suspended within an open vessel (101). The invention reduces the number of required pressurisation cycles of the environment within and around the fibres (13). In some forms such pressurisation is eliminated.



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